



Clean Version of Replacement Claims for Entry During Prosecution of US Application
No. 09/554,793

2. Device as claimed in claim 9, wherein at least two notches are located next to one another.
3. Device as claimed in claim 9, wherein notches are staggered on opposite sides.
4. Device as claimed in 9, wherein at least one of the surfaces forming the inner surface of the channel is hydrophilized.
5. Device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the exposed surface opposite to the notch is hydrophilized.
7. Device as claimed in claim 12, wherein a layer of oxidized aluminium is used for the hydrophilization.
9. A device for withdrawing samples of liquid samples for analytical elements, wherein the device comprises:
 - a carrier and
 - a cover having a surface that cooperates with a surface of the carrier to form a capillary-active channel, the channel having a sample application opening and
 - wherein at least one notch in the form of a partial groove is located in one of the carrier and cover surfaces forming the channel at an edge of the sample application opening of the channel so that one side of the edge of the sample application opening is at least partially interrupted by the at least one notch and the surface facing the channel opposite to the at least one notch is exposed.
10. Device as claimed in claim 9, further comprising a second cover and an intermediate layer positioned between the second cover and the carrier.
11. Device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the hydrophilization is achieved by a hydrophilic material.

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12. Device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the hydrophilization is achieved by a hydrophilic layer.
13. Device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the hydrophilization is achieved by a hydrophilic material.
14. Device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the hydrophilization is achieved by a hydrophilic layer.
15. Device as claimed in claim 14, wherein a layer of oxidized aluminium is used for the hydrophilization.
16. A method for withdrawing a liquid sample into an analytical element, the method comprising the steps of providing a device that comprises a carrier and a cover having a surface that cooperates with a surface of the carrier to form a capillary-active channel having a sample application opening and wherein at least one notch in the form of a partial groove is located in one of the carrier and cover surfaces forming the channel at an edge of the sample application opening of the channel so that one side of the edge of the sample application opening is at least partially interrupted by the at least one notch and the surface opposite to the at least one notch facing the channel is exposed and contacting the edge of the sample application opening adjacent to the notch with the liquid sample so that the liquid sample is transported by capillary forces into the channel.